IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Hironori FUЛОKA, et al. : EXAMINER:

SERIAL NO: New Application :

FILED: Herewith : GROUP ART UNIT:

FOR: METHOD OF PRODUCING REDUCED IRON AND PRODUCTION FACILITIES THEREFOR

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to an examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-8 and 14-22 without prejudice as follows.

- --1. (Canceled)
- 2. (Canceled)
- 3. (Canceled)
- 4. (Canceled)
- 5. (Canceled)
- 6. (Canceled)
- 7. (Canceled)

- 8. (Canceled)
- 14. (Canceled)
- 15. (Canceled)
- 16 (Canceled)
- 17. (Canceled)
- 18. (Canceled)
- 19. (Canceled)
- 20. (Canceled)
- 21. (Canceled)
- 22. (Canceled) --

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-13 are presently pending in this application, Claims 1-8 and 14-22 having been canceled by way of this Preliminary Amendment.

Examination on the merits of Claims 9-13 and an early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER,& NEUSTADT, P.C.

Gregory J. Maier

Registration No. 25,599

Robert T. Pous

Registration No. 29,099

Attorneys of Record

22850

(703) 413-3000

Fax #: (703) 413-2220

GJM/RTP/AY:si

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